

Dorcas *Albania*

Country profile

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Quality assurance and accountability

Dorcas Albania adheres to internationally recognised quality and accountability standards, applied across programmes, operations, and partnerships as part of the wider Dorcas organisation:

- ISO 9001:2015
- Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS)
- Partos FPA - Principles for Fundraising & Accountability
- Dorcas Integrity Framework

Building my family's future

'The programme didn't just improve my income—it gave me the confidence to grow and build a future for my family.'

Mirela (left)
project participant



Who is Dorcas?

Dorcas is a Christian organisation working in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. We have worked in Albania since 1992. Dorcas supports communities facing poverty, exclusion and crisis. We stand beside people in vulnerable situations. We support them to unlock their potential and restore their dignity. We work with partners to strengthen resilience, expand access to services and promote social inclusion. Our mission is rooted in compassion and action. We follow Jesus' example by standing with those who are left behind.

Discover more in the We are Dorcas brochure.



Dorcas Albania at a glance

Who we are

Dorcas Albania has worked for three decades to support communities in vulnerable situations across Korçë, Tropoja and Puka. We address root causes at three levels: restoring individual dignity and capability, building resilient community structures, and strengthening accountable institutions. Our programmes address poverty, unemployment, climate vulnerability and social exclusion. We focus on community-driven development, economic empowerment, livelihoods, agritourism, youth employment and climate adaptation. Our long-term presence and trusted partnerships with government, civil society and international donors enable us to deliver sustainable impact. Between 2026 and 2030, we will expand into Central Albania, including the Tirana municipality, to reach new communities that need support in social empowerment, economic development, and climate resilience. This is how we create flourishing people and communities.

Our expertise

We work across four themes: Protection, Economic Development, Livelihoods and Food Security, and Community Development. Our methodologies include community-led development, agritourism support, sustainable agriculture, youth employment pathways, social empowerment and climate adaptation. We apply evidence-based approaches supported by strengthened MEAL systems, including impact studies, qualitative results frameworks and environmental impact

assessments. Our programmes are delivered by experienced local teams supported by thematic experts and regional learning exchanges.

Our geographic focus and reach

Where we work: Korçë, Tropoja, Puka and expansion to Central Albania (Tirana municipality).



Regional priorities

Korçë:

Building resilient communities through sustainable livelihoods, empowerment, social protection, and inclusion.

Tropoja and Puka:

Empowering remote northern communities through livelihoods, youth employment, local economic development, and community-based social protection interventions.

Central Albania (Tirana):

Integrating Social Empowerment Programmes and Local Economic Development to address community vulnerability through social protection, youth employment, and inclusive livelihoods, while strengthening Dorcas Albania's positioning, partnerships, and national networking.

Current reach





Our strategic ambition

We aim to double the number of project participants by 2030, diversify funding from three to five donor categories, and expand operations into Central Albania. We will strengthen MEAL systems, enhance technical expertise, and position Dorcas Albania as a recognised national and regional actor in climate adaptation and community-driven development.

Dorcas vision for Albania

By 2030, we envision an Albania where:

Communities in Korçë, Tropoja, Puka and Central Albania build economic resilience and climate-adapted livelihoods.

Marginalised groups – including Roma communities, older people and families in extreme poverty – access quality services and participate fully in society.

Youth find meaningful employment and contribute to thriving, self-sufficient communities.

How Dorcas contributes to this vision

Dorcas Albania strengthens community resilience through community-led, inclusive and long-term approaches. We work across four themes: Protection, Economic Development, Livelihoods and Food Security, and Community Development. Our programmes integrate climate adaptation, agritourism, sustainable agriculture, youth employment, social empowerment and local economic development. We partner with government, civil society and international donors to create systemic change. By 2030, we will expand into Central Albania, strengthen staff capacity, and implement most programmes directly. Through evidence-based programming, regional collaboration and strong partnerships, we help communities build sustainable livelihoods and live with dignity and hope.

The challenges we address with our partners

Economic challenges and poverty

Unemployment, poverty and lack of skilled labour limit opportunities for youth, rural communities and families in vulnerable situations.

Climate vulnerability

Climate risks, deforestation and environmental degradation threaten rural livelihoods and require adaptation and sustainable practices.

Social exclusion and demographic shifts

Marginalised communities, older people and families in extreme poverty face barriers to services and inclusion. Youth emigration weakens the workforce and community resilience.

The youth population (e.g., 15–29) has declined sharply in size due to migration and other demographic factors.

How Dorcas makes a difference in Albania

Dorcas Albania works through four programmatic themes that advance our 2030 vision. All programmes integrate inclusion, climate sensitivity and community ownership.



Protection

What we do We protect people vulnerable to poverty, exclusion and violence through integrated measures and targeted prevention.

Impact example In Maliq, an after-school centre provides care, education and a safe space for 20 children from families in vulnerable situations. Through training for parents, teachers and local professionals, Dorcas Albania promotes holistic child protection and inclusion.

Contribution to vision Strengthens dignity, safety and social inclusion.

Key metric 120 children in Korca region and 40 children in Tropoja participating annually in protection programmes who demonstrate improved well-being and school engagement after 12 months.



Economic Development

What we do We strengthen entrepreneurship, employability and access to markets.

Impact example Edmira renovated her guesthouse with support from Dorcas. It now attracts domestic and international tourists, and she has become a role model in Valbona’s growing tourism sector.

Contribution to vision Expands economic opportunities and supports local economic development.

Key metric 87 improved small businesses supported for the last 5 years.



Impact story SMILES project



“Through the SMILES project, I gained more than financial support. I gained the knowledge, confidence, and encouragement to build something meaningful for my family. With the right guidance and trust, I was able to turn my idea into a sustainable livelihood here in Puka.”

Tuasir Puka
SMILES project participant



Livelihoods and Food Security

What we do We support sustainable livelihoods and food security.

Impact example Mirela expanded her poultry farm from a few dozen chickens to 300 hens and 200 chicks. She now sells twice as many eggs and supplies guesthouses in Valbona.

Contribution to vision Strengthens household resilience and income stability.

Key metric 112 target households reporting increased and diversified income sources after 3 years of support.



Community Development

What we do We strengthen community capacity, resilience and social cohesion.

Impact example Dorcas Albania's volunteer network connects through an online platform to support people in vulnerable situations and collaborate with local partners.

Contribution to vision Builds empowered, resilient and connected communities.

Key metric 200 number of active community volunteers engaged through the platform Volunteja, who participate in at least two coordinated action annually.



Join the volunteer network
via VolentEja



Android



iOS

Our track record and capacity

Our contribution to Albania's development (2020–2025)

Dorcas Albania strengthened livelihoods, enhanced social empowerment and improved community resilience across the Northern (Kukes and Shkoder), Southeastern (Korçë) and Central (Tirana and Elbasan) regions. Through community-led approaches, we supported groups in vulnerable situations to access services, build resilience and secure sustainable livelihoods.

Number of partners and collaborators strengthened in 2025



People and communities

Number of people reached in each community

	People reached directly
Korçë community	3,762
Tropoja community	3,867
Puka Community	379
Total	8,008

Number of people reached per year

Year	Directly reached	Indirectly reached
2020	1,411	403
2021	1,388	598
2022	1,379	243
2023	1,014	308
2024	1,111	1,491
2025	1,705	4,970
Total	8,008	8,013



Programme quality

- Programmes are externally evaluated against OECDDAC criteria.
- Integrated models (SEP–LED–Livelihoods) are validated for coherence and sustainability.
- Community ownership and behavioural change are documented by independent evaluators.
- Evaluation findings are translated into action plans and programme improvements.
- Evidence is based on independent evaluations.

Results

Dorcas Albania works alongside people and communities to strengthen resilience, inclusion and sustainable livelihoods. To monitor and demonstrate the impact of our work, we track results across two key areas: Social Empowerment and Protection (SEP), which focuses on strengthening social inclusion, access to services and community resilience, and Inclusive Entrepreneurship (IE), which supports people in developing skills, improving livelihoods and creating sustainable economic opportunities.

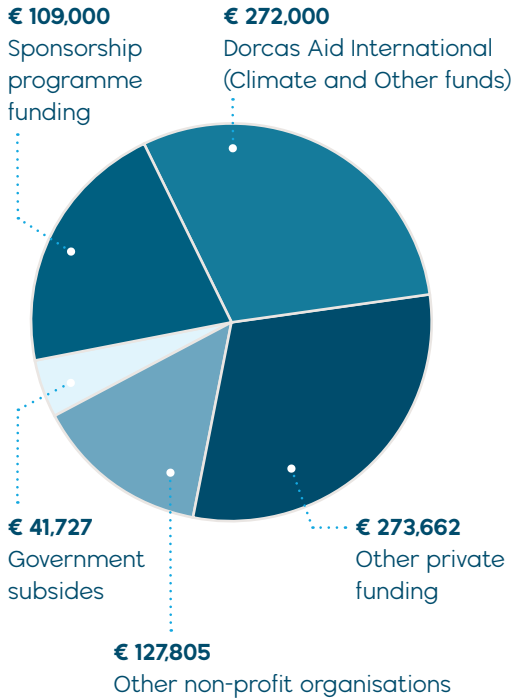


Financial capacity

Annual income (2026): € 824,194
Largest programme implemented: € 368,947, Korçë Social empowerment and protection and integrated development of groups in vulnerable situations.
Programme expenditure: 81 per cent
Multi-year funding secured: Sponsorship, Private funding Dorcas International Office
Local resource mobilisation: € 140,000

Funding partners include:

- Kom Over en Help
- NDI
- ICLA
- AKPA
- European Union (EU)
- International donors and funding agencies



Sustained community-driven impact Dorcas Albania builds on a strong track record of community ownership, long-term partnerships, and integrated approaches, positioning the organisation to scale sustainable impact nationally through 2030.

Looking ahead (2026–2030)

Dorcas Albania will expand into Central Albania, strengthen local leadership, diversify funding and become a recognised actor in climate adaptation and community-driven development.

Join our vision

Why partnerships matter

Dorcas Albania works with government institutions, civil society organisations, international donors, private-sector actors and local communities. Our partnerships are built on trust, shared values and long-term commitment. Together, we create opportunities for communities to flourish.

What partners say

'Dorcas Albania is a trusted partner for our municipality, combining strong community engagement with reliable delivery and long-term commitment to vulnerable groups.'

Ermanda Petriti
Director of Social Services Office, Maliq Municipality

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'Through close cooperation with local partners, institutions and communities, Dorcas Albania strengthens livelihoods, social protection, and local ownership in some of the most remote areas of northern Albania.'

Xhevdet Hoxha
Executive Director, "Integration Association" (local implementing partner), Tropoja

.....
'Our long-term partnership with Dorcas Albania has strengthened communities in Korçë, bringing hope, dignity, and practical support to vulnerable families through shared values, commitment, and service.'

Mariela Baraku
Executive Director, Emanuel Mission Foundation



Network memberships

- Albanian National Rural Development Network (ANRD)
- Dorcas Eastern Europe network
- GreenAL network
- Aflatoun International

'Dorcas Albania has been a trusted partner in strengthening rural communities, empowering farmers, and supporting local entrepreneurship, demonstrating how collaboration can create lasting opportunities and contribute to sustainable rural development.'

— Albanian Network for Rural Development (ANRD)



Partnership principles

- Shared values and mutual respect
- Complementary strengths
- Transparent communication
- Long-term commitment
- Local leadership
- Joint learning and adaptation

An invitation from our director

Real and lasting change begins when people are empowered to shape their own future.

Across Albania, we encounter inspiring individuals and communities who demonstrate remarkable resilience, creativity, and determination to create better opportunities for their families and the next generation. Their strength reminds us that the greatest potential for change already exists within communities.

At Dorcas Albania, we walk alongside communities to strengthen livelihoods, promote inclusion, and support pathways towards a more resilient and hopeful future.

Meaningful transformation grows through partnership. When communities, institutions, civil society, and international partners combine knowledge, trust, and commitment, real and sustainable change becomes possible. With our partners, Dorcas Albania continues to work towards stronger communities where people can live with dignity, opportunity, and hope. Together, we can shape a stronger and more hopeful future for Albania.

Xheni Prenda
Country Director Dorcas Albania



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We take action in the face of poverty,
exclusion and crises. We come alongside
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